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A METHOD OF REMOVING CUTICULA FROM MARINE ANNELIDS.

THE following simple method has been found successful for the removal of cuticula from marine annelids:

The worms are first narcotized in sea water to which from 5 to 10% commercial alcohol has been added. They are then placed in a 10% solution of sodium chloride in distilled water for from 24 to 48 hours. The time of immersion in the salt solution varies with the different species. The worm is now removed to fresh water and an incision with the points of scissors is made along the dorsal surface of the animal. A little shaking with forceps aided with scalpel is sufficient to remove the cuticula entire, although it is usually more convenient to first cut the worm into pieces. The pieces of cuticula thus obtained are floated upon slides and the water is allowed to evaporate. In this way permanent mounts are obtained. Such mounts are especially valuable for studying the distribution of sense organs, gland pores, setae, etc. If the worm has been left in the salt solution a sufficient time all the epidermis cells will be left behind and a mount of perfectly clean cuticula will be obtained. Care must be taken to wash thoroughly in fresh water before mounting upon slides; otherwise salt crystals will form and injure the preparations.

MARGARET LEWIS.